

The changes are in the form of enlarged, handsome signboards painted by David which stand at the Planetarium entrance advertising the current offering inside.

#### NEW STEINHART INHABITANTS

AMONG THE NEWEST inhabitants of Steinhart Aquarium are a group (or perhaps a flock) of distinctive and beautiful—at least to aquatic biologists—Turkey fish, whose many spines and fins are colored much like turkey feathers.

These somewhat unseasonal but highly individual-looking specimens are among a number of Wake Island fish transported here aboard the *F. S. Bryant*, the Standard Oil of California tanker dearly beloved by aquarists for its fish collecting and carrying. Also included in the Bryant cache were black Trigger fish and Moorish Idol fish—the symbol of Steinhart—and others which, with the Turkey fish, are now on display in the aquarium.

The generosity of the San Antonio zoo is responsible for some additional acquisitions at the aquarium. They are Blind Cave Salamanders and Two-Legged Salamanders, also on public display.

#### SUCCESSFUL STINT ON "SUCCESS STORY"

CREDIT FOR THE ACADEMY's highly successful starring appearance on Richfield Oil Corporation's television series "Success Story," on Thursday, March 21, should go to many persons at the Academy plus, of course, the Richfield and KGO-TV cast and crew and the San Francisco State college students who acted as "cable-grips."

In the hope that anyone who is overlooked will be tolerant, much credit is due the efforts of Dr. Robert C. Miller, Dr. Robert T. Orr, Dr. Earl S. Herald, George Bunton, Cecil Tose, Ben Draper, Ernest Rook, Velma Harris, Jacqueline Schoenwald, Charles Dornbach, Johan Kooy, Alvin Gundred and Toshio Asaeda.

Although 30 minutes is not much time to show the myriad and diverse activities of the Academy, "Success Story" of the Academy was well received, thanks largely to the contributions of the aforementioned.

#### NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of March 20, 1957:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- Mr. Walter H. Barkas
- Mr. Ralph Benton
- Miss Margaret Bodfish
- Mrs. Sarane T. Bowen
- Dr. L. Reed Brantley
- Miss Gertrude W. Cavins
- Miss Elvira Cecconi
- Mr. Henry V. Colby
- Mr. Philip Collischonn, Jr.
- Mr. Robert Fertman
- Mr. Charles O. Greenlaw
- Mr. Stuart J. Inglis
- Mr. George E. Jagger
- Mr. Paul B. Kingston

##### Mr. Albert Peltzer

- Mr. G. Dale Searight
- Mr. Ray Simonds
- Mr. Homer H. Sosso
- Mrs. Lucile E. Swendsen

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

- Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Adams
- Mr. John E. Hawkins
- Dr. Morton S. Keston
- Mr. Clarence J. Pfaffenberger

##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

- Dale Ahern
- Michael A. Fox
- Shirley O'Neill

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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Photo courtesy of Mt. Palomar Observatory

#### COMET AREND-ROLAND SEEN THROUGH THE MT. PALOMAR 48-INCH TELESCOPE

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April Announcement

THE REGULAR APRIL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 p. m., Wednesday, April 17, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. This month's program will be somewhat of a departure in that it will involve more history than science. Early in January, the Columbia Broadcasting System launched a new, highly regarded television series called "Odyssey." For the series' premiere performance, it was decided to recreate the early days of Virginia City, Nevada, in a show entitled:

"BONANZA—THE SAGA OF THE COMSTOCK"

For assistance in bringing back the hectic silver- and gold-seeking days of Virginia City, CBS turned to the television staff of the Academy. Members of the staff including Ben and Mrs. Draper, Ernest Rook, Freda McCaig, Richard Cook and Barbara Gordon took over various tasks for the premiere show while Dr. Robert C. Miller and Mrs. Miller were host and hostess aboard a special press plane flown to the Nevada site for the show.

An hour-long film of this excellent retelling of the gusty, lusty days at the Comstock Lode will be shown to Academy members and their friends at the April meeting.

Ben Draper will introduce the program and explain briefly how the Academy became involved in the production of the show. "Odyssey" is a cooperative venture between CBS and the American Association of Museums.

Because of the historical significance of this program, members of the California Historical Society are also invited to view the showing.

CAPERINGS OF A COMET

STILL MASKED by the greater brightness of the sun, a celestial visitor to this solar system is expected by astronomers to appear quite suddenly in the northwest sky around April 24 or 25.

The visitor is the Comet Arend-Roland, now too close to the sun to be seen. Arend-Roland, many astronomers predict, will be the brightest comet since Halley's Comet last appeared in 1910. Various estimates place its brightness from -1 to -4.5 on the intensity scale. Halley's Comet was about -4 to -5 on the scale.

Arend-Roland, named for two Belgian astronomers who discovered it in November, 1956, will first appear low in the northwest portion of the sky, gradually speeding upwards in a slightly northerly direction during the next four weeks after it first appears to the naked eye.

The comet, a "long period" one which may take a thousand years or more to travel its orbit, is now moving toward the sun and will pass nearest that body April 8.

Later in the month, about an hour after the sun goes below the horizon, Arend-Roland will appear and should be plainly visible for about three-quarters of an hour.

Because of the appearance of the comet, the May and June shows at Morrison Planetarium will be switched. "Through the Tail of a Comet" will open May 1 and continue through June 2 while "From Pyramids to Palomar" will be moved to June 5 through June 30.

STUDENTS CAPTURE STRANGE FROGS

A ROUTINE FIELD TRIP for members of the Academy's student section in the San Bruno hills south of San Francisco quickly turned into an exciting event when the students discovered some highly unusual variations of the California Red-Legged Frog.

The students brought back three frogs which graphically portray what herpetologists believe to be a mutation in the common frog. One of the three is an ordinary dark-splotched, healthy-looking frog. Another is almost completely bright red-orange, except for two dark-spotted bands on the upper portions of his hind legs. The third has gone all the way. He is completely red-orange, having mutated so far as to resemble a completely different species than the California Red-Legged Frog.

The only specimens of this unusual mutation in captivity, as far as is known, the brightly hued amphibians are on public display in Steinhart Aquarium.

ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

THE ACADEMY'S ASTRONOMY section will meet this month at 8 p. m., Wednesday, April 24, in the Student Lecture Room. "The Properties of Light and Their Application to Astronomical Study," a series of discussions and demonstrations utilizing explanatory equipment, will be continued by Planetarium manager George Bunton.

VOYAGES OF THE VALDIVIA

THE ACADEMY LIBRARY is richer by a 24-volume record of one of the most important and fascinating scientific expeditions ever made, because of the generosity of the Academy's Board of Trustees.

The trustees presented the library with 24 volumes of the *Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Deutschen Tiefsee-Expedition auf dem Dampfer "Valdivia."* The German deep-sea expedition aboard the steamer "Valdivia" collected and studied the flora and fauna of scores of Oceanic Islands in 1898-1899, the results of which are still being published.

Complete with a fund for binding, the trustees presented the library with 24 volumes published between 1902 and 1940.

BRIGHT NEW SIGNS FOR PLANETARIUM

THINGS ARE NOTICEABLY changed at the interior entrance to Morrison Planetarium, because of the diligent efforts and artistic ability of David Porazzo, 16, one of the Planetarium ushers.